

Trustees Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

**Wednesday 16 October 2024****Present:**

Dave Morris (Chair, NFPGS)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) + Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Paul Ely (Research, NFPGS)	c/o Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Shelly Quinton-Hulme (Interim Treasurer & Organisational Development, NFPGS)	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Michelle Furtado (Network Coordinator, NFPGS)	Green Tides (Adur & Green Spaces Worthing Partnership)
Nigel Sharp (Secretary, NFPGS)	NW Parks Friends Forum

Apologies:

Sarah Royal (CEO, NFPGS)	Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)
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Minutes of Previous Meeting (1.5.24) and Matters Arising	
<p>Minutes from the previous Trustees meeting (1.5.24) and the follow up General Meeting (11.6.24) were agreed. For reference previous meeting mins are saved at the NFPGS website: https://natfedparks.org.uk/resources/minutes/</p> <p>The sad news of the death of Professor Robert Lee, a founding member of NFPGS was noted. Robert was a great parks and social champion on the Wirral, his influence extending to the wider NW region as founder and chair of the NW Parks Friends Forum. NS attended a memorial service in Liverpool's Nordic Church – another cause Robert was involved with supporting. Tributes are available at: https://birkenhead-park.org.uk/remembering-professor-robert-lee/ https://www.theguardian.com/education/article/2024/aug/29/robert-lee-obituary</p> <p>Updating the membership and contact list is ongoing – NS will review further and share with DM to support promotion of forthcoming AGM (see later).</p>	NS / DM
NFPGS initiatives, projects, campaigning	
<p>Research</p> <p>NFPGS (SR) has been contacted by the University of Surrey re. support and potential input to a project assessing the use and potential value of green space to student wellbeing. PE to contact the University for further details but noted that the limited NFPGS capacity to contribute. NS noted that other NFPGS members with active student links – notably BOSF and Sheffield could be interested and supportive.</p> <p>PE is due to attend the online Launch of the Nature-Based Integration Project Report (29.11.24) – This is a project we supported with a research survey. More details at:</p>	PE / SR

<p>https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/nature-based-integration-connecting-communities-with-in-nature</p> <p>PE is in discussion with UCL re. possible research opportunities for 2024-25 students.</p> <p>Partnerships NFPGS has advised on and promoted the Fields in Trust Friends of Parks Groups survey 2024 in the build up to the FiT centenary next year. 120 groups have responded. A report is being compiled. This process is similar to our recent support provided for The Gardens Trust survey – as set out in the Historic Environment Report 2023-24 by Historic England (details at: https://thegardenstrust.org/the-gardens-trust-featured-in-the-latest-historic-environment-overview/ with survey info on P.27).</p> <p>DM updated on the ‘Parks Action Group’ potential re-launch – or rather the new Government’s ‘Parks Working Group’ to act as sector liaison with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Items on the agenda are likely to include re-rendering for the Green Flag Award, community empowerment, upskilling local communities/ workforce development, access to nature, and funding. It is said that the Government will recognise that solutions to the funding crisis for the sector is less about small scale, competitive funding and more a broader consideration of longer term local authority funding settlements, with current research into ‘well run services’. Dave provided the MHCLG officers with a full (and impressive!) list of NFPGS/FGs research conducted over the last 8 years.</p> <p>NS noted APSE has also reported on LA funding and current issues – details at: https://apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/members-area/briefings/2024/24-14-state-of-the-market-on-parks-and-greenspaces/ See pp27-28 re community involvement (increasing!).</p> <p>DM has received no response from the Horticultural Trades Assoc. re. a possible MoU.</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>PE</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM</p>
Finance/ administration	
<p>Funding proposals PE is still keen to progress further research to provide evidence of need to substantiate any funding bid.</p>	<p>PE</p>
AGM	
<p>Annual Report SQ-H confirmed financial details and the draft report are ready, pending a chair’s update.</p> <p>Promotion DM agreed to send a ‘save the date’ e-mail asap, further details can follow leading up to the meeting – MF agreed to draft a newsletter and include any necessary information. DM and others will follow up with calls to local area forums. Those due to attend could also be invited to become a trustee.</p> <p>Constitution Discussion re. officer roles and period in position (max 5 yrs). This may become an issue in next year’s AGM. The adoption of the NFPGS constitution was on 23/11/19, with the first AGM in 2020. We noted the Covid crisis period followed. There is a case that these would</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>DM/NS/MF</p> <p>DM/NS</p>

<p>represent 'extenuating circumstances' to allow periods of office to be extended. Discuss next year.</p> <p>Meeting theme for discussion Agreed that a general discussion on 'What support does the membership / movement need/want from NFPGS? How can NGPGS support most effectively?'</p> <p>Next steps It was agreed a further brief meeting may be useful prior to the AGM to agree the agenda and discussion item.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
<p>Possible Pre-AGM meeting - tbc</p> <p>AGM Saturday 16 November (by zoom), 11-1pm. Followed by short Trustees meeting.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9213929960?pwd=Y1QyYi9iK2ZjY2VrdFk3RVh2Qm5Sdz09 Meeting ID: 921 392 9960 Password: FOVPS</p>	<p>NS/DM</p>